

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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SUBJECT: UNIDO - CAIRO AFRICAN MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY MEETING

SUMMARY: ECA/OAU/UNIDO SECOND CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY ADOPTED AT PRODDING OF UNIDO SECRETARIAT DECLARATION ON INDUSTRIALIZATION WHICH WILL CONSTITUTE AFRICAN NEGOTIATING POSITION AND BE SUBMITTED AT UNIDO SECOND GENERAL CONFERENCE (UNIDO-II). EFFORTS BY UNIDO SECRETARIAT ENCOURAGE SIMILAR REGIONAL PREPARATIONS FOR UNIDO-II REPORTEDLY UNDERWAY. END SUMMARY.

1. LOCAL MISSION AND SECRETARIAT SOURCES HAVE DRAWN OUR ATTENTION TO DECLARATION, "INDUSTRIALIZATION IN AFRICA: PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT" ISSUED BY AFRICAN MINISTERS OF INDUSTRY MEETING AT CAIRO, DEC 18 TO 23, 1973 AND TO IMPLICATIONS OF DECLARATION FOR UNIDO-II (SCHEDULED FOR LIMA IN MARCH 1975). SOURCES INDICATE UNIDO EXEC DIRECTOR
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ABDEL-RAHMAN, ACCOMPANINED BY SEVERAL SENIOR STAFF

(SYLLA, GOURI, OKUMU), PLAYED ACTIVE ROLE INCLUDING MAKING ADDRESS, AND THAT UNIDO SECRETARIAT HOPES ENCOURAGE SIMILAR MEETINGS OF OTHER REGIONAL COMMISSIONS TO SET STAGE FOR UNIDO-II. (COPIES OF DECLARATION AND A-R ADDRESS POUCHED IO/MCD.)

2. IN HIS ADDRESS, A-R CONCLUDED PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT "HAVE BEEN ACCENTUATED BY SERIES OF DISRUPTING FACTORS IN MONETARY, FOOD, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL FIELDS, " I.E. COMPOUNDED RATHER THAN REDUCED SINCE ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (IDS). HE INVITED LDC'S TO TRADE OFF THEIR NON-RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES FOR "EFFECTIVE AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING WORLD RESOURCES AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS OF MANKIND ON FAIR AND EQUITABLE BASIS." NOTING ARAB MINISTERS' THIRD CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIALIZATION SCHEDULED FOR TRIPOLI APRIL 1974 AND PROBABLE LATIN AMERICAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON INDUSTRIALIZATION ALSO IN 1974 "WOULD BENEFIT FROM CONCLUSIONS AND DELIBERATIONS THIS CONFERENCE, " HE CALLED ON AFRICAN MINISTERS TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND PARTICULARLY FOR UNIDO-II.

3. MINISTERS' DECLARATION, REPORTEDLY CONTAINING SUBSTANTIAL UNIDO INPUT, INCLUDES RECOMMENDATION THAT "BASIC PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES" CONTAINED THEREIN CONSTITUTE AFRICAN STAND IN INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS PARTICULARLY UNIDO-II AND THAT TEXT THEREOF BE SUBMITTED TO UNIDO-II.

A. TO LARGE EXTENT, PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES EMBODIED IN THE DECLARATION SHOULD NOT GIVE US DIFFICULTY. SOME OF GUIDELINES, E.G. CALL FOR STRONGER LINKS BETWEEN AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY, CAUTIONARY NOTE STRUCK WITH RESPECT TO AN IMPORT-SUBSTITUTION STRATEGY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND STRESS ON GREATER SELF-RELIANCE, WE CAN WELCOME. HOWEVER, AT NUMBER OF POINTS DECLARATION RAISES ISSUES WHICH WOULD GIVE US PROBLEMS, E.G. UNQUALIFIED REASSERTION OF PERMANENT AND COMPLETE SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATURAL RESOURCES, CALL ON DEVELOPED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTRIES TO "ENSURE" NET TRANSFER OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES IN CONFORMITY WITH THE IDS TARGETS AND CALL FOR MODIFICATION IN POLICIES AND PROGRAMS OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES NECESSARY TO FACILITATE THE LOCATION IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES OF INDUSTRIES DESIGNED TO SERVE EXPORT MARKETS WITHIN" AN AGREED FRAMEWORK OF AN INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOR."

B. IMPLICATIONS OF OTHER POINTS, SUCH AS PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN AFRICAN MINERAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, MAY BE DIFFICULT ASSESS. HOWEVER, A SPECIFIC REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROPOSAL OF THIS KIND WOULD PRESUMABLY NOT FIGURE IN ANY STATEMENT OF BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR AN INTERNATIONAL DECLARATION ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT NOR IN ANY GENERALIZED PLAN OF ACTION FOR ASSISTING THE LDCS. GIVEN RECENT CRITICISMS OF MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES, WE RATHER AMUSED AT PROPOSAL ADOPT "INTER-AFRICAN MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISE APPROACH".

4. MISSION ASSUMES DEPARTMENT WILL BE RECEIVING ANALYTIC REPORTING ON THIS AND FUTURE REGIONAL MEETINGS CONCERNED WITH INDUSTRIALIZATION AS IT RELATES TO IDS MID-TERM REVIEW AND TO UNIDO-II. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ON DISTRIBUTION. STIBRAVY

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